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Hungarian Refugees

Arrivals Mostly Young Men

By Muriel Bowen

MORE THAN half the Hungarian refugees that have come to the United States, so far, are young men. Tracy Voorhees, President Eisenhower's special refugee chief, said in Washington yesterday.

Most of them said on arriving here, continued Voorhees, that they left Hungary to avoid deportation to Siberia. They are the finest types of young men too, including doctors, scientists and others professionally trained.

Voorhees' comments were made last night when he dropped in on a committee meeting in connection with a gala premiere of Lowell Thomas' "Seven Wonders of the World," scheduled for the Warner Theater, Dec. 27. The performance will be a highlight of the American Red Cross Metropolitan Area's \$78,000 Hungarian relief fund drive. Voorhees came to the meeting at the R. st. home of the premiere's chairman, Mrs. Frank G. Wisner.

The first of the airlift planes bringing refugees arrives in New Jersey at 10 a. m. tomorrow. Voorhees said "There will be four planes in all—three Air Force and one Navy."

THE AIRLIFT called in Europe "Operation Safe Haven." It aims at living 15,000 refugees from terror-stricken Hungary to the United States. It is hoped that most of them will arrive in time for Christmas.

This newspaper's wire serv-

ices reporting from Munich (Germany) yesterday on the start of the massive airlift bringing war-scarred Hungarians to a new life described them as "some jittery, some weeping, some smiling."

The first planeload left Munich with a bon voyage message from United States Consul-General Edward Page spelling out new hope.

"We welcome you to the United States and hope you have a happy future there," he said, "my love and blessings."

It was a departure crammed with emotion and excitement. Just before boarding the plane the refugees huddled together to record a "Thank you, America" message. This was beamed back by radio to Hungary shortly after take off.

MOST OF the travelers had never been in a plane before. Some were alarmed at the idea of seats facing backwards. But they were soon reassured by the captain, Maj. Wallace G. Matthews, whose words were translated by an interpreter.

Matthews, whose home is at University Park, Md., told them that he had been President Eisenhower's pilot for 3 years. That was when the Chief Executive was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

"I will try to go around, or over, bad weather," Matthews is quoted as telling them, "but I will not always be able to. You may get bumps, but try to think of them as you would an auto-

mobile going over a rough road."

There are nine children aboard, the youngest just 1 year old. When the plane touched down at Prestwick, Scotland, for refueling, the youngsters were said to be "getting along fine . . . happily opening packets of cookies and oranges."

Though many of the refugees wore tattered clothing—the bits and pieces they had lived in for weeks without a change—they were very concerned about looking their best on arrival in the United States.

WHEN ASKED by Red Cross officials at Prestwick what they needed most, the women said, "lipstick" and the men, "shoe polish."

Among the women passengers is a redheaded, 19-year-old Budapest hairdresser called Anna. She told of leaving Budapest in a truck and later walking 30 miles. A guide took off his shoes and carried her piggy-back across a border stream to freedom.

The first of the airlift planes reaches journey's end, McGuire Air Force Base, N. J., at 10 a. m. this morning. Passengers will then be taken in coaches to the Army barracks at Camp Kilmer, N. J., where they will be cared for until places to live and work have been found for them.

"We hope to process them through pretty quickly," Voorhees said last night. "But, naturally, it

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